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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,689	12/30/1999	KENT C.B. STALKER	ACS-52008(18)	8160
24201	7590	11/28/2006	EXAMINER	
FULWIDER PATTON 6060 CENTER DRIVE 10TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90045			GRAY, PHILLIP A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3767	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/476,689	STALKER, KENT C.B.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Phillip Gray	3767

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 23-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to applicant's communication of 9/5/2006.

Currently claims 23-44 are pending and rejected below.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/5/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the directional element (50) is not capable of satisfying the claim limitations of the "filtering portion including a directional member".

Further applicant

In response to applicant's argument that the directional element (50) is not capable of satisfying the claim limitations of the "filtering portion including a directional member", a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In this case the Gilson patent directional member is fully capable of being expandable by the fluid flow in the body vessel.

Applicant further argues that there is no support in Gilson that the outer surface of the restraining sheath or catheter is used to advance intervention devices. During examination, claim limitations are to be given their broadest reasonable reading. In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989); In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404-1405, 162 USPQ 541, 550-51 (CCPA 1969). Given this analysis of the

claims and limitations, as described in the rejection below, the elements of Gilson are fully capable of satisfying the claimed limitations as currently written. The Gilson elements are fully capable of satisfying all structural, operational, functional, and spatial limitations as written in the claims. Therefore the rejections stand and are proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 23-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gilson et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,336,934). Gilson discloses an embolic protection device having a collapsible filter element (105) mounted on the end of a catheter (118) and optionally mounted on a tubular sleeve (104).

Concerning 23, 27, and 36, Gilson discloses an embolic filtering catheter apparatus containing a filtering portion (105), with directional member (50) being made from a pliable material, with no self-expanding properties, expandable by the fluid flow in the body vessel (see column 5, paragraphs at lines 30-40). When directional member is in elongated state, disposed against the vessel wall, the member directs blood, fluid and emboli into the relatively disposed filter member (see paragraphs at column 15, lines 24-41).

Concerning claims 23-24 and 29-30, the filtering member device is made from blood filtering material and braided/woven biocompatible material which is capable of blocking the passage of an emboli, and is expandable by the expansion of the directional member (see paragraph at column 15, lines 9-30). The expanded filtering directional device is a truncated conical shape (see column 14, lines 60-62, figures 37 and 39), that directs fluid into the filtering member (105).

Concerning claims 25, 26, 31, 35, 37-39, and 44, Gilson discloses an embolic protection catheter device that contains an elongate tubing lumen with a slide-able shaft member adaptable to allow an interventional device to be advanced into position within a body vessel (as in figures 13-18). The filtering portion and member are disposed within the elongate tubing lumen in a compacted delivery position. These interventional

devices may be advanced over the outer of inner surfaces of the elongate tubing lumen or inner sheath (as in figures 13-18 and 28-37). A shaft member (guide wire 101), contacting the interior of the filter member, is movable within the lumen for delivery and retrieval of the filtering means from the elongate shaft, is also disclosed in Gilson. Gilson further discloses a sheath/sleave (104) means for retracting the filtering means back into the lumen.

Concerning claim 28, 32-34, and 40-43, the Gilson embolic filter device discloses a plurality of restraining wires (30) attached to the filter mesh (31) and directional member (34) from within the elongate lumen (35), which can retract the filter and directional member to the collapsed position and into a recovery sheath or sleeve (104 or 32), via a location outside the body vessel (figures 11-15). These wires are held in a collapsed position during delivery of the filter member. The plurality of wires extend outward and may hold the filter open while the filter is deployed. (See paragraphs at column 10, line 55 through column 11, line 33)

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gray whose telephone number is (571) 272-7180. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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KEVIN C. SIRMONS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Kevin C. Sirmons